U.S. - Mass. - Boston

Twenty-Fifth Annual Report

of the

Jamaica Plain Friendly Society

1899

BOSTON ... AID SOCIETY

TAKE NOTICE

The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society represents the entire community. Subscriptions in its behalf are collected by its authorized solicitors beginning in November. A prompt and generous response to their calls is earnestly hoped for, as the Society is entirely dependent upon these annual subscriptions.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

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JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY

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NEWS PRINTERY
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.
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Jamaica Plain Friendly Society—1899.

The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society now takes its place among the older charitable organizations of Boston, and in sending out its twenty-fifth annual report, the committee feel that they might naturally be expcctcd to tell of very definite results and of great good to the community, through the quarter of a century of work. Can we tell of such results?

Has our Society justified its existence and its claims upon the community for financial and friendly co-operation?

We do not wish to claim too much for our work, but in looking back over the years, we feel sure that it has been very good for this community that such a society has existed. Most of the work has necessarily been done in a quiet way, and the workers themselves have hardly realized that any permanent good was being accomplished, until they have had the satisfaction of seeing the children of families whom they had tided over a hard time during their dependent years, become self-supporting and self-respecting members of the community. Such results we have seen over and over, and it is these things which cheer our hearts, and help us to go on year after year, in spite of some disappointments and occasional criticism.

During these twenty-five years all charitable work has changed, and more and more we are learning that careless alms-giving does great harm to the poor, while friendly visiting and oversight, and gifts only when absolutely necessary, save a family from becoming dependent, and help the children as they grow up, to habits of industry and self-reliance.

In the earlier years of our work applicants flocked to our rooms, confidently expecting to go away with orders for food, coal, or clothing, without having their cases very thoroughly looked into.

From the beginning we considered investigation of the greatest importance; still such investigation then was much more difficult than it is now. It is possible now to have complete co-operation with the Associated Charities and other organizations, and the reports from one society to another almost entirely prevent the danger of being deceived by unworthy applicants. Such applicants have learned that it is not the object of our society to encourage begging and idleness, and it is now the exception when they come to our room for help. This seems to us one of the greatest gains in twenty-five years, that all charity is more wisely and carefully administered, and that the work of friendly visitors among the poor is not only to give aid in time of sickness and need, but to become acquainted with the families, to learn their characteristics, the capabilities of the children, in short, to be their friends and true helpers under all circumstances. Is not this better than the charity which formerly was given from door to door and which, we fear, is still sometimes given without real thought or investigation even in this enlightened community ?

It is hardly possibly for any family to starve or freeze when poor neighbors are always ready to share their hod of coal or their loaf of bread with those who are worse off than themselves,

and so we repeat again our earnest request that no beggar shall receive aid at the door, but that every case shall be reported at our room, or to one of our visitors. Such cases are at once investigated and assistance is given if necessary, but we are are sorry to say that those who go with their sad stories from door to door are seldom found to be worthy, if found at all.

Last winter a family who has been known to us for some years and whose ways we had not approved of, were reported to be in great distress. A little girl had been sent out begging for food and this was given by kind people ; the mother was also receiving small sums of money in answer to begging letters. The visitors from the Friendly Society and from the Children's Aid Society found the older daughters of this family unwilling to work and their ways of living very doubtful. These girls had also a few years ago been sent out begging and had evidently never been trained to any habits of industry. The influence upon the younger children of a bad father and mother, and of the older sisters, was most demoralizing, and great efforts were made through the co-oporation of different societies to break up the family, but although there was strong evidence of wrong ways of living still there were not sufficient proofs to interfere with the rights of the mother to keep the children, which she insisted upon doing. With this family we feel that most serious harm was done by the successful begging of the older children. They soon learned that they need not work when food would come to them so easily, and evil ways have naturally grown out of begging and idleness until a whole family has become weak and degraded.

We must consider the future of these families growing up in our midst, we must not be satisfied with showing kindness and sympathy towards the interesting woman or pretty child who come to us with there pitiful stories of need. These

people have greater needs than those of food and fuel, and we can only show our interest and sympathy by taking time to look into their actual condition, and if worthy seeing that they are put in the way of proper assistance.

The cases discussed at the weekly meetings of our committee have been very varied, and some of them have required much time and thought.

Elderly people, the sick, widows and deserted women with families of growing children have claimed our special care.

For one elderly couple, beside the aid given by our society, a small pension was obtained from a private fund. In some cases children have been placed in homes and the sick in hospitals.

The long severe winter brought many applications for coal which were a drain upon our treasury, but which we were glad to be able to grant. A great many boots and rubbers were also given in families where the children must otherwise be kept from school. In one case where a respectable young carpenter had been out of work several months, help of various kinds was given for a few weeks. He had a wife and four young children, one feeble-minded and paralyzed, and it was a great relief to the over-burdened woman to have our sympathy in her troubles and anxieties as well as the food and fuel which for a time were a necessity.

Our sewing has been given as usual to a number of needy women. A part of this work has been cut and prepared by our agent, but a good deal has been received from the New England Hospital, the Children's Hospital and the Infant Asylum.

Besides the help which we are constantly receiving from our co-operation with many other societies and institutions, we wish to speak of the great kindness of individuals in special cases where money is needed for the sick and helpless. We

are always sure of generous responses to our appeals for these special cases. We should like to be as sure that every one in this community would feel some personal responsiblity in helping to carry on the regular work of the Society, by contributsomething each year to the treasury, so that the workers may have no anxiety in this regard.

We feel that we cannot emphasize too strongly the duty of this personal responsibility to our local charitable organization, which exists not only to relieve distress but to do its part toward the work of removing the causes of poverty and crime in our city.

ELLEN C. MORSE, ANNA R. EDES,
FANNIE M. HOPKINS, CORNELIA BOWDITCH,
MARY H. DAVIS, ELLEN E. INGALLS.

Case Committee.

From *Charities*, the magazine of the N. Y. Charity Organization Society.

"Organized charity is heart plus thought. It demands not less, but more charity. It demands not only the disposition to give freely but the nerve to give wisely, and if it is right, to with-hold absolutely. It is based upon fraternal affection and one of its elements is the capacity for friendship.

To the personal giver, organized charity offers the opportunity of satisfying the clear brain that the charitable impulse is leading to the right goal.

By investigation it gives him a solid basis of knowledge, By co-operation with others, it prevents over-lapping and waste, and enables the individual to accomplish results which for himself, would have been impossible. By personal service it brings the giver into direct contact with those who need aid, sympathy and encouragement.

These are the three pillars of organized charity, knowledge, co-operation, and personal service."

The Treasurer of the Home Saving Society makes the following report:

Number of depositors	7
Largest amount collected in one month	$10.40
Largest amount saved by one person	$20.50
Total amount collected in the year	$68.30
The amount withdrawn in the year	$63.30

STATISTICS FOR 1898—99.

Applicants	70
New garments given away	106
Boots and rubbers given away (prs.)	134
Women taking sewing	20
Articles made	749

The Friendly Society's room is in Curtis Hall, South Street. Miss Emma Smith, the agent, will be found there every week-day (except Saturdays and holidays), from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

OCTOBER 1, 1898, to OCTOBER 1, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Balance brought from last year	$ 299.02
Cash received from subscriptions	1112.39
" " " sales	42.12
	$1453.53

EXPENDITURES.

Agent's salary	$ 300.00
Paid for provisions and milk	170.67
" " boots and shoes	169.71
" " coal and wood	136.73
" " materials	82.35
" " printing	45.10
" " postage	5.50
" to Associated Charities for directory	1.50
" " " " " registration	100.00
" for Charities Review	2.10
" by Case Committee for work, etc.	284.31
" to Hill, Smith & Co. for book	.75
Balance on hand	154.81
	$1453.53

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from Oct. 1, 1898 to Oct. 1, 1899, and find the same correctly cast, payments therein properly vouched, and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date with a balance of one hundred and fifty-four dollars and eighty-one cents (154.81).

CHAS. B. CUMINGS, *Auditor.*

BOSTON, Oct. 6, 1899.

Officers of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society.

1899—1900.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Dr. Arthur P. Perry, Rev. Charles L. Morgan, Mr. W. Henry Winslow.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Robert T. Edes.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, (*Chairman*), Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Dr. J. C. Stedman.

Auditor: Mr. Charles B. Cumings.

Case Committee.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, *Chairman*, 60 Burroughs Street.
Miss Cornelia Bowditch, *Secretary*, Pond Street.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, 58 Eliot Street.
Miss Ellen E. Ingalls, 14 Myrtle Street.

VISITORS.

Miss Cornelia Bowditch, Pond Street.
Mrs. W. S. Carter, 42 Eliot Street.
Miss C. E. Chickering.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, 58 Eliot Street.
Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place.
Mrs. W. H. Forbes, 233 Chestnut Avenue.
Mrs. Charles Harrington, 57 Orchard Street.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss E. E. Ingalls, 14 Myrtle Street.
Mrs. J. S. H. Leard, Weld Hill Street.
Mrs. James Low, Forest Hill Street.
Miss Ellen C. Morse, 60 Burroughs Street.
Mrs. Charles F. R. Ogilby, 2 Hathaway Street.
Miss Ellen O'Reilly, 17 Eliot Street.
Mrs. A. E. Smith, 203 Ashland Street, Roslindale.
Miss Emma A. Smith, Maple Place.
Mrs. S. G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street.
Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hill Street.

ASSOCIATE VISITORS.

Dr. H. W. Broughton, 17 Gordon Street.
Mr. E. W. Clark, 684 Centre Street.
Mr. Charles B. Cumings, 40 Greenough Avenue.
Rev. Charles F. Dole, Roanoke Avenue.
Dr. George Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mr. George W. Fowle, 212 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. E. P. Gerry, 2 Everett Street.
Dr. R. E. Jameson, 28 Eliot Street.
Dr. J. S. H. Leard, Weld Hill Street.
Dr. Arthur P. Perry, 60 Elm Street.
Mr. Wm. Rooney, Burroughs Street.
Col. George Russell, 25 Eliot Street.
Rev. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.
Dr. J. C. Stedman, 80 Elm Street.
Mr. W. Henry Winslow, 4 Perkins Street.

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